CLAIMS

1. A moving picture experts group (MPEG) decoder for producing a caption for display on a screen, said decoder producing a video stream from an externally-applied MPEG stream, the decoder comprising:

a video decoder for decoding the video stream and extracting user data from header information of the video stream;

a header memory for storing the user data;

a central processing unit (CPU) for (i) producing caption data by decoding the user data and (ii) transforming the caption data into on-screen-display (OSD) object data;

an OSD controller for transforming the OSD object data into pixel data in response to a predetermined enable signal and outputting the pixel data; and

a video mixer for mixing the pixel data with the decoded video data.

2. The MPEG decoder of claim 1, wherein the OSD controller comprises:

an OSD buffer for storing the OSD object data received from the CPU; and

an OSD processor for reading the OSD object data from the OSD buffer and transforming the OSD object data into pixel data.

3. The MPEG decoder of claim 1, wherein the OSD object data is considered data transformed from caption information when a caption function is performed, and considered data for displaying ordinary OSD characters when an ordinary function is performed.

4. An MPEG decoding method comprising the steps of:

(a) decoding an MPEG video stream;

(b) extracting user data from the header of the MPEG video stream;

(c) producing caption data by decoding the user data;

(d) transforming the caption data into OSD object data and storing the OSD object data;

(e) determining whether an OSD enable signal has been applied;

(f) transforming the OSD object data into pixel data if the OSD ~~enable~~ signal has been applied; and

(g) mixing the ~~pixel data~~ with video data and outputting the resultant data.